

Volume 46, Number 9

September 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday Sept. 7, 2006 - 7 PM

VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Refreshments - Door Prizes

HAMFEST SCHEDULE

Lake Charles - September 16

Pineville - October 14

Monroe - November 11, 2006

Each Wednesday

Lunch Bunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Golden Corral - Amb. Caffery
Check 146.820 - repeater for info

Each Monday, 7:00 p.m.

AARA Net 146.820 - 600

Each Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

ARES Net 145.370 - 600 PL 103.5

YL/XYL Only Net 146.820 - 600

a.k.a. Filly Net

AARA OFFICERS 2006-2007

President - Roland Guidry NA5Q

na5q@w5ddl.org

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Secretary - Randy Castille N5MLJ

Treasurer - Joy Breaux N5YCS

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The **LARC** is published monthly by the:
Acadiana Amateur Radio Association

P. O. Box 51174

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Regular meetings 1st Thursday of
each month at 7:00 p.m. at the
American Red Cross Building
101 North Pat Street Scott, LA

Presidents Message

This month I have very good news to report. On August 16th we had an introductory and registration meeting for the Technician Class License with 26 prospective ham radio operators. These persons are to meet again for classroom introduction on August 26th. *A big thanks to Lafayette General Medical Center and Rick Bourgeois N5RY for granting us meeting and classroom space to conduct our classes.* So far, all of the students are in the medical profession representing eight hospitals and one ambulance service. XYL and YL's you may be interested to know that we have 12 YL's taking the course.

Hopefully many of these persons will pass their Technician Class License Exam and will add to the number of hams in the area. Their learning experience is just starting though. Keep that in mind when you hear a new voice on the air. These new hams will need guidance and stewardship to assist them with ham radio communications – operations and equipment. Please give them a big welcome to our hobby.

We have already received word that an October class is going to be scheduled because many more persons wish to take the course. The club extends its gratitude to the instructors, Rick N5RLM, Nick K5QXJ - Radio and Electronic Fundamentals, Charlie KI5XP, Buddy N5AN and Bert W5ZR - Operating Station Equipment, Glenn KD5NVC and Randy N5MLJ - Communicating with other Hams, Danny K5ARH and Greg K5LFT - Licensing Regulations, John KA5BSE and Ed Roy WA5TNK - Operating Regulations and Rick N5RY and Roland NA5Q - Radio Safety. Without these hams giving up their free time and experience teaching classes none of this would not be possible.

Kudo's go to Buddy N5AN for sponsoring a very interesting club meeting program in August, "Resolving RFI Issues". His guest speaker, Mike Martin of RFI Experts, Tracy's Landing, Maryland gave a very nice presentation that was very informative and timely. Thanks Buddy!

September brings our next project and program, "Amateur Awareness Day" on September 16th. Our Chairperson, Glenn KD5NVC has been working hard on this project to make it successful. His comments are in this LARC. If you are able to attend, please do so and assist us in presenting Amateur Radio to our community.

Congratulations to Rick N5RLM for snagging the Delta Division ARRL Convention in May of next year for our annual hamfest. This event promises to be bigger and better than ever. Rick will need plenty of assistance on this, the biggest project of all. RFI Experts web site:

<http://www.rfiservices.com/>

Roland Guidry NA5Q
President

QSL CARDS

by Stratos Imvriotis - KE5DCI

Part of the fun of amateur radio is collecting cards, called QSL cards, from other amateurs that you've talked to on the radio. Some people like to collect stamps from various parts of the world, but hams collect QSL's. If you are also a stamp collector, you will find that often a card comes from a distant country with an interesting stamp on the envelope.

Another reason for collecting QSL cards is to participate in the many certificate programs available to amateurs. Whether it's getting your DXCC (DX century club) for getting cards confirming contacts with 100 or more DX countries, working all states in the U.S., all provinces in Canada, or many other awards available you will need the cards to support your claim for the award.

Choosing a QSL Card

If you plan to QSL your contacts then you will need a personal QSL card. You can design your own and have a local printer produce them for you or you can order cards from one of many services you will find advertised in QST and other ham radio publications. Give some thought to the content of the card and the quantity you will be ordering. Usually larger quantities are much less expensive on a per card basis.

Contents of a QSL Card

Some of the content that should be on each card is:

- your call sign
- your name and address
- a place to write
 - the call of the station you contacted
 - the date (use DD/MM/YY to comply with most countries)
 - time in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time)
 - frequency or band
 - mode (SSB, CW, RTTY, etc.)
- a request to QSL or thanks for a QSL received

Some optional items you might include are:

- your station (maybe even a picture)
- your CQ and ITU zones
- the county you are in
- your grid location (primarily if you operate above 50 MHz)

If you plan to send a lot of QSL's, you might find that using a computerized logging program such as DX4Win, EasyLog, or DXBase and others can help you keep track of your contacts and also print labels for the QSL cards.

Sending QSL's

To send a QSL to an amateur you have contacted (QSO), you have two choices. QSL direct via the post office or send a batch of cards to your QSL bureau. Using the bureau is by far the most cost effective route but you might not want to wait for the return QSL.

QSLing Direct

To QSL direct you will fill out your QSL card and mail it to the person you contacted. Say you had a QSO with KA5BSE and you would like his QSL card. First you need to find his address. This can be done by

AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY

SEPTEMBER 16, 2006

What makes Amateur Radio unique is the ability to communicate with one another anywhere in the world--and even in orbit--without having to rely on any outside infrastructure whatsoever. Hams can even do this without even being plugged into the wall socket. Experienced radio amateurs take this capability for granted, but the general public is far less aware of it. So, on Amateur Radio Awareness Day, Saturday, September 16, will highlight Amateur Radio's ability to communicate worldwide without commercial mains, the Internet or a cellular telephone system. It is particularly appropriate since September is the Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Month.

Amateur Radio Awareness Day activities typically focus on increasing public awareness. According to DHS, National Preparedness Month is aimed at encouraging Americans to prepare for emergencies and to raise public awareness about the importance of being prepared. This Amateur Radio Awareness Day, September 16, will simply be a demonstration of what we amateurs can do without having to rely on the commercial mains, and what we *will* do whenever the need arises.

The AARA club van will be setup at the Wal-Mart on Ambassador Caffery between the Garden and Main entrances. We will operate on every band from 0900 to 1500 hours. During this time, we will meet and greet the public, inform them to our capabilities and have the opportunity to show the public what we are capable of during times of crisis or

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE ZOO!

by Dick Melcher WA6MDI

I moved to the Lafayette area a few years ago and my main job happens to be a corporate jet pilot for a local business in the area. This job is usually on the weekends only and during the rest of the weekdays, I have a part time job working 3 days a week at the Zoo of Acadiana in Broussard, La., running the diesel excursion train (live steam trains happens to be one of my other hobbies along with ham radio). On Wednesday May 17, as I was approaching the exit gate with my passengers, I noticed a small Axis deer walking parallel with the fence near a large grassy area and it was obvious that we were going arrive at the gate at the same time.

This Axis deer had the proverbial "deer in the headlights" look so I stopped the train and backed up probably 20 feet to give her some room. Starting up forward, I felt some surging in the train and looked back to find the first passenger car was slightly tilted. As it turns out, the number one axle on the lead passenger car had derailed when I backed up. A brake assembly was hanging by the bottom attach point forcing the axle in the air therefore knocking it off the track when I tried to move the train forward.

At this point I called on the zoo radio for some help. Prior to help arriving, I attempted to try to fix the problem. I was under the first car with my "rear end" in the air. What is important to note is that this was about 5 feet from the fence that separated me from Humphrey, the Zoo's Bactrin Camel. Not realizing that Humphrey is sometimes temperamental, I totally forgot about him as I was trying to get the bottom bolt undone so I could get the brake shoe removed and get the car back on track and into the station.

Humphrey decided that I apparently presented a tempting target and tried to take a bite out of my "left cheek". (And I don't mean the one by my nose). The passengers on the train were literally rolling on the floor laughing at this, Humphrey apparently deciding that I wasn't worth pursuing, wondered off to chew on the fence.

Meanwhile help had arrived with a jack, whereby we proceeded to put the car back on the track and limp back into the station. Once I had the situation stabilized, I headed into the restroom to discover the majority of the damage to my rear end was teeth marks in my wallet and a couple of black and blue marks on the left cheek.

What is even funnier is: The following Monday, I had to fill out a workman's comp injury report, trying explain in words about how a Camel bit me in the butt. I am sure I will be getting a phone call from the Workers Comp Organization when they read this one. Who says running trains can't be hazardous to your health? Wanna know something else? The camel ended up getting sick! Form your own conclusions on this one. Hi Hi.

The website is: <http://www.zoofacadiana.org>

(continue from page 2 column 2)

Please make plans to stop by on that day and take part, promote our hobby and have a whole lot of fun. We will have refreshments for those who spend a little time operating and having some fun with the rest of the group. See the Proclamation on page 5 column 2.
Cheers and 73

Glenn Breaux - KD5NVC

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Rick Bourgois - N5RY
Larry LeBlanc
John Cunniff - W4JHC
Alton Pitre - KB5RKP
Mike Dronet - KD5PCW
John Webb - K5ANN

The following names are those persons that attended the Technician training course on Saturday August 26 and passed their test and are waiting for their new license.

Matthew Parish
Murphy Lormand
Pamela Biessenberger
John Romero
Ashton Langlinais
Charles Mashek
Lara Mashek
Blaine Landry
Rachel Wilson
Yvonne Broussard
David Crews
Tabitha Richard
James Dennis
Mary Williams
Charles Moore
Kathy Wood
Paul Molbert
Francisco Lopez

SLARC SWAMPFEST 2006

Date: September 16, 2006 Time: 08:00 til 15:00

Setup Friday evening from 5:00 PM til 7:00 PM and Saturday 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Talk-in 146.730 with pl turned off. VE Testing at 10:00 AM.

GRAND PRIZE - TS-50 Food service available on site.

More info at: <http://www.qsl.net/w5bii/Swampfest%202006.htm>

August Meeting VE Testing Results

We had five people that tested at the August 2nd meeting. All five passed their Tech or upgraded. Here are the results:

Rose Pitre	KE5IJE	Upgraded to General
Arnold Lemaire	KE5JXC	Passed his Tech and received his new call.
Walter Wehmann	KE5JXD	Passed his Tech and code and received his new call.
John Cunniff	W4JHC	Passed his General and code.
Joshua Mora	WD5HQZ	Passed his General and code.

K5R SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Members of the Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club (SELARC) will be operating a special event station to commemorate the first anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

We hope to keep fresh, the memories of the devastation that these hurricanes caused, not only in the New Orleans, LA area, but all across the Gulf South, including the states of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. With all the attention given to New Orleans, many have forgotten that Katrina first left a path of destruction across Florida. Let us not forget those from Mississippi and the Cameron Parish, LA area whose houses were totally washed away by these two ferocious storms.

The 2005 hurricane season was a record breaking season in many ways. The aim of this special event station is to remind everyone of the lives that have been affected and that some still need support and assistance. Even if the only support that you can offer are prayers, you help is greatly appreciated.

Ham radio played an important role in the recovery efforts after the storms blew through the area. It was not uncommon to see hams from across the country arriving to help out those in need. When all normal forms of communications failed, ham radio was there. Please be there again to help support our special event station.

You can catch us on the air **September 16, 2006 from 1400Z-2000Z**. We will be operating in the *20 and 40 meter bands*. More specifically, we will be on **14.250 and 7.250 MHz, +/- QRM**. If conditions are favorable and the contacts are there, we may operate pass the scheduled ending time. So if you tune in a little late, try giving us a call.

To receive a certificate, please send a S.A.S.E. to :

Southeast Amateur Radio Club (SELARC), K5R
P.O. Box 1324
Hammond, LA 70404

For up to date information, please visit our Yahoo! Group at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/K5R>

September Special Events & Contests

September 1 & 2	WA5HOT - World Championship Barbeque Goat Cook-off 2100Z-2100Z - 21.360, 14.250, 7.295, 3.875. Certificate
September 9 -11	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
September 9	W9E - Honor those who gave their lives during 9/11. 0300Z-1100Z 14.260, 7.260, Ft. Bend County EMROG, Sugarland, TX.. QSL via KD5HAL
September 10 - 17	K6P - POW-MIA Remembrance Day. 0000Z-2400Z - 14.253, 21.350, 18.150, 24.950. W6APD Anaheim Police Amateur Radio Club. QSL via KM6HB
September 23 - 24	CQ WW RTTY Contest



09/01	KA5BSE	JOHN
09/02	KD5OZJ	ALLEN
09/07		MURPHY LORMAND
09/09	KC5IOD	ANGELA
09/16	KD5OJT	JOHN
09.19	WD5CAE	MELVIN
09/20	K5ARH	DANNY
09/21	KE5FSG	JONATHAN
10/01	KC5BYD	JAY
10/04		KATHY WOOD



Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership



**SEPTEMBER 1st BEGINS
 NATIONAL
 PREPAREDNESS MONTH**

(continued from page 2 column 1)

ing an online call-book such as Buckmaster or QRZ, or you can use a CD-ROM callbook from these organizations or others such as the Flying Horse call-book.

Then fill out the card, address it (maybe use an envelope to protect it), put a stamp on and drop it in the mailbox. Usually in a few weeks you can expect a card in return.

If you are sending a card to a DX contact it is generally good practice to include a self addressed envelope and return postage. ***Do not use the postage of your country*** as it will not be valid for use in the DX country. Instead include either a U.S. dollar bill (known by hams as a green stamp) or an International Reply Coupon (IRC) which you can purchase at the post office. Some countries require more than the equivalent of a dollar for postage. One example is Germany where you should send two dollars or two IRCs. And we thought our postage was expensive! Remember that DX amateurs, especially those in rare countries, get a lot of requests for QSL cards and so it is only fair to them that you provide the cost of postage.

QSL Managers

Active DX stations often use a QSL manager especially when mail to the DX country is difficult at best and non-existent at worst. Some DX stations use managers in the U.S. which makes postage less expensive. You will be aware of the QSL manager when looking up the address of the DX call or by lists published in some of the amateur magazines. You send a card to a QSL manager in the same way as discussed above. A return envelope and postage is a must.

QSLing via the Bureau

Using a QSL bureau is by far the least expensive way to collect QSL cards. Most major Amateur Radio countries have a bureau where cards are collected from hams within the country and then forwarded in bulk to the destination country. Using bulk mail to send your cards to the bureau and for them to forward the cards to other countries cost much less for postage than mailing individual cards. ARRL in the U.S. offer QSL cards outgoing services for amateurs who are members. Incoming cards can generally be received whether or not you are a member but membership alone is worth the cost of the bureau's service.

eQSLs

A recent phenomenon in the QSL scene is the ability to QSL via the Internet. To do this you only need to go to eQSL.cc at <http://www.eqsl.cc/qslcard/> and register for this free service. Using your web browser you will be able to design your own QSL card, send cards to contacts you have made and receive cards. The service also provides features for organizing cards received and creating summaries of them. Currently eQSLs are not acceptable for most awards such as DXCC.\

On the next LARC : Propagation

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio's (Ham Radio) unique ability is to communicate with one another anywhere in the world – and even in orbit – without having to rely on any outside infrastructure whatsoever; and

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio Awareness Day activities focus on increasing public awareness by displaying public demonstrations, talks to community groups and getting local media coverage; and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month, according to DHS, is aimed at encouraging Americans to prepare for emergencies and to raise public awareness about the importance of being prepared; and

WHEREAS, on September 16th, 2006, from the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. near the main entrance at the Wal-Mart on Ambassador Caffery, a public display and information table will be set up containing information for the public on ham radio and emergency communications; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this event is to inform the community and increase its awareness of what ham radio is capable of doing during an emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, L.J. "JOEY" DUREL, JR., CITY/PARISH PRESIDENT of the Lafayette Consolidated Government, do hereby proclaim the 16th day of September, 2006 as:

"HAM RADIO AWARENESS DAY"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Lafayette Consolidated Government to be affixed this 16th day of September 2006.

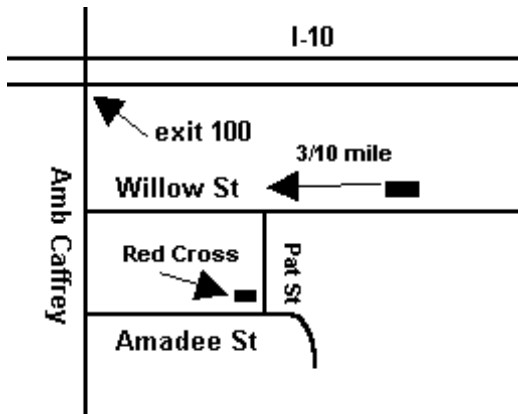
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ARRL NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM TRAINING

Now that we have some new amateur radio operators that will be manning the communications at various medical hospitals during times of emergencies, the AARA will be setting up some on-the-air NTS training sessions. Rick N5RY and Herman KN5GRK be conducting these sessions. We will be letting you know soon as to when and where we will be conducting these sessions.

Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.
P. O. Box 51174
Lafayette, LA 70505-1174

Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>



COMPLEMENTARY
ISSUE

AARA GENERAL MEETING - Sept. 7

Red Cross Bldg., 101 N. Pat St.. Scott, LA

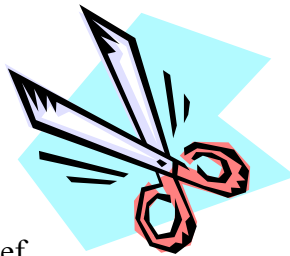
7:00 PM - VE Testing @ 6:00 PM

Refreshments - Door Prizes

Re-printed from: *GRIER'S ALMANAC 2006*

SHEPHERD's PIE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 tbsp. olive oil | 3 tbsp. butter |
| 1 onion (diced) | 1 celery rib |
| 3 carrots (sliced) | 2 garlic cloves |
| 1/2 lb. mushrooms (cut) | 1 tsp. salt |
| 3 tbsp. tomato paste | 3 tsp. oregano |
| 1 can beef broth (low sodium) | Black pepper |
| 1/2 tsp. worcheshire sauce | 1 lb. ground beef |
| 4 cups mashed potatoes | 1/4 cup graded parmesan cheese |



Heat oil and butter over medium heat. Add garlic, onions, celery, carrots, mushrooms, salt and oregano. Cook about 10 minutes. Stir in tomato paste and cook for 8 minutes. Add broth, beef, worcheshire sauce, pepper & cook about 3-4 minutes. Transfer the meat and veggies into a 2 quart casserole dish and spread the mashed potatoes over the top. Sprinkle with cheese and bake until it bubbles, about 40 minutes, and allow to cool for 10 more.

If you have a favorite recipe, we would like to hear from you.

FCC LICENSE INFO SERVICE

The FCC toll-free (WATS) number for Amateur Radio license inquiries - including inquiries about vanity and new call signs. The number, 888-225-5322, will connect callers to the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at 202-414-1250 or ulscomm@fcc.gov.

Web site:

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>

New callsign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/VEC at 860-594-3000.

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec>

The mailing address to the FCC is: Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245